



Los Gatos / Monte Sereno
Police Department
Scott R. Seaman, Chief of Police



Santa Clara County
Fire Department
Ken Kehmna, Fire Chief

PRESS RELEASE

Day: Monday
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Celebrate July 4th the Safe Way!

The Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department and the Santa Clara County Fire Department partner to help keep our community safe this July 4th

The Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department and the Santa Clara County Fire Department are proud to announce they will be working together this July 4th in an effort to keep our community safe. A Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Officer and Santa Clara County Fire Arson Investigator will join to patrol the Town of Los Gatos and Monte Sereno to educate and enforce the use and possession of illegal fireworks.

While most fireworks are only set off during New Year and Independence Day celebrations, they result in nearly 10,000 people crowding our emergency rooms with fireworks-related injuries nationwide at a cost of more than \$100 million annually. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks, which include devastating burns, other injuries, fires, and even death. The personal use of fireworks poses a real hazard given the current drought conditions, where high fire danger is expected to continue throughout the year, especially near county hillsides.

"Most violations of California's fireworks laws are misdemeanors, subjecting the offender to a maximum of \$1,000 fine and up to one year in county jail. However, possession of large amounts of fireworks or items considered to be an explosive device could be charged as a felony," said Los Gatos Monte Sereno Police Captain Michael D'Antonio.

"Over the last several years, there has been an increase in the use of illegal fireworks. With resources already strained, this creates an additional burden in police and fire departments," said Santa Clara County Fire Chief Ken Kehmna.

Authorized by: Captain Michael D'Antonio Date: 6/23/14 Time: 1700

110 E. Main St. Los Gatos, CA 95030 (408) 354-8600 Fax: (408) 354-0578

Tips for staying safe this holiday!

- Follow federal and state fireworks laws. Fireworks are illegal in Santa Clara County. 'Safe and sane' fireworks are legal for Gilroy residents only.
- The safest way to celebrate is to attend an outdoor public display conducted by specially trained professionals.
- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers. Children should be kept a safe distance away from any display.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks, as serious injury or even death can result.
- Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks.
- Avoid drinking and driving, and ride public transportation to a professional public display.

To report the use of illegal fireworks, please contact the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department at (408) 354-8600.